

House Resolution No. 453

Whereas, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives always welcome the opportunity to acknowledge milestone events in the histories of cherished Show-Me State religious institutions; and

Whereas, Second Missionary Baptist Church of Grandview, Missouri, was founded by Dr. Donald D. Ford, I, in 1978 as the first predominantly black church in south Kansas City; and

Whereas, at its inception, Second Missionary Baptist Church utilized the visionary leadership of Deacon Aaron Verser as its first Deacon and Mission Store housekeeper; Sister Teresa Verser as Musician; Brother Bennie Greene as Financial Director, Sunday School Teacher, and Bus Driver; and Sister Verna Ford as Sunday School Teacher, Church Secretary/Clerk, and Youth Choir Director; and

Whereas, with its first worship service conducted on February 26, 1978, on the lower level of what was then known as the Grandview Bank Building, Second Missionary Baptist Church met in a series of temporary locations until its move into the Family Life Center on August 24, 1997; and

Whereas, Second Missionary Baptist Church has enjoyed spectacular growth in attendance and membership, brought twenty-two members into the ministry, and started seventeen other churches down through the years; and

Whereas, in addition to its well-attended education and worship programs, Second Missionary Baptist Church reaches out to the wider community through its Touch of Grace Ministries which include a sports association with a track team that has made ten national appearances, a football team, and youth basketball and softball teams; a drill team; a drama guild; and youth and adult praise dancers:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, join unanimously to praise the programming and accomplishments embodied in the activities of Second Missionary Baptist Church/Touch of Grace Ministries and to convey to the church's leaders and members this legislative body's most heartfelt congratulations and best wishes as they commemorate twenty-five years of stellar spiritual endeavors; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution in honor of the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the founding of Second Missionary Baptist Church in Grandview, Missouri.

Offered by _____
Representative Cathy Jolly
District No. 45

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, First Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 453, adopted February 20, 2003.

Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker